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CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Cholera in Shanghai and Amoy.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McMullin reports, September 3, 1903, as follows: Week ended August 29, 1903. Eight vessels, with 566 crew and 320 passengers (158 cabin and 162 steerage), were inspected and granted bills of health; 418 crew and 162 steerage passengers were bathed and 567 pieces of baggage disinfected. Only 3 fatal cases of plague were reported (Chinese), and 1 of cholera, for the week. Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports that cholera has again appeared in Shanghai and that while it is not now epidemic it will probably increase, and several cases have occurred on board ships in the harbor. Cholera at Amoy is apparently decreasing, judging from the bills of health from that port. The case of cholera reported here for last week occurred in one of the adjacent districts and not in the city of Victoria, making a total of 8 cases reported since January 1. The first case of cholera this year occurred in May.

Report from Shanghai—Cholera present—Precautions taken to prevent spread.

SHANGHAI, CHINA, August 31, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended August 29, 1903. There were inspected during the week 5 vessels, 398 crew, 43 cabin and 145 steerage passengers. The quarters of the native crew of one vessel were disinfected with sulphur gas, and 83 men were bathed and their clothing disinfected. Two men were rejected on account of temperature. The number of pieces of freight viséd was 51,072.

The report of the municipal health officer for the week shows: Cholera, 1 case, 9 deaths; enteric fever, 1 case; dengue fever, 6 cases. Total mortality, 4 foreigners and 296 natives.

The mortality among the natives has practically doubled in the last two weeks, and as cholera is present I have no doubt that a good deal of the increase is due to that disease, notwithstanding the fact that but few cases and deaths are officially reported. I have therefore imposed all the restrictions which were in force here last year, and inclose for the information of the Bureau a copy of the instructions issued to the various shipping firms, etc., in Shanghai.

I also inclose a copy of my letter relative to the visé of shipping orders, etc., to the quarantine officers at Manila, Honolulu, and such places in the United States as I thought particularly interested, for their information.

Respectfully,

S. A. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

[Inclosures.]

SHANGHAI, CHINA, August 17, 1903.

GENTLEMEN: Owing to the presence of cholera in Shanghai, I have to request that you notify the masters of the various vessels in which

you may be interested, sailing from this port to any port under the jurisdiction of the United States, that until further notice no fruit or vegetables whatsoever must be taken on board at Shanghai. A strict compliance with this requirement is necessary in order to avoid complications and delay to vessel at destination.

Respectfully,

S. A. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

SHANGHAI, CHINA, *August 31, 1903.*

GENTLEMEN: In view of the spread of cholera in this port the restrictions regarding wool, feathers, skins, and bristles, viz, dry packing in naphthaline to the satisfaction of this office, in force here last season, will again be put into operation from and after this date and until further notice.

In this connection I would say that until otherwise advised it will be necessary to submit to this office for countersignature all shipping orders or boat notes for cargo emanating from or passing through Shanghai en route to United States ports, and in order to avoid detention at quarantine at destination the officers of vessels should be instructed not to receive on board any freight the boat note for which is not properly signed.

Respectfully,

S. A. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

GENTLEMEN: Your particular attention is invited to the requirement of this Service that all vessels bound to an American port from Shanghai shall submit for disinfection, under the supervision of this office, the personal effects of all crew and steerage passengers shipped here and such effects of members of the crew as have been taken ashore during the stay of the vessel here.

You are also reminded that it is required that any vessel bound to an American port upon which any of the quarantinable diseases—viz, cholera, plague, smallpox, leprosy, typhus or yellow fever—have occurred shall herself be disinfected, under the supervision of this office, before bill of health can be granted.

You are respectfully requested to advise the masters of any vessels in which you may be interested that a very strict compliance with these requirements is necessary in order to avoid trouble and considerable delay to their vessels at destination.

Respectfully,

S. A. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

COLOMBIA.

Report from Bocas del Toro, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended September 29, 1903. Present officially estimated population not obtainable. Number of deaths from all causes, 5; prevailing diseases, malarial. The 5 deaths noted were due respectively to malarial fever,